

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 21st day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

NEW MEMBER.

The following new Member was sworn in :—

Khan Bahadur HAJI ABDULLA SAHIB Bahadur.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Concession regarding increment remission.

917 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent reduction of the increment remission granted to caste ryots is given to Khonds and other backward Hill tribes ;

(b) whether such concession in increment remission is given to depressed classes ryots in the southern districts ; and

(c) if not, why not ?

A.—(a) & (b) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the concession granted to Khonds and other hill tribes in respect of the enhancement of assessment. If so, the answer to (a) is in the affirmative and the answer to (b) is in the negative.

(c) The Government do not consider that any useful comparison can be drawn between aboriginal hillmen and the inhabitants of the plains.

Transfer of Provincial Service Deputy Collectors and Indian Civil Service Revenue Divisional Officers and Collectors.

918 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state how many Provincial Service Deputy Collectors and Indian Civil Service Revenue Divisional Officers and Collectors have been transferred during the course of the last ten months ending with 31st January 1923 to places beyond two districts and to what distances and how much travelling allowances have been drawn in each case ?

A.—The Government regret that they do not see sufficient justification for directing the compilation of the statistics asked for. They presume that the criterion which the hon. Member sets before him is the distance travelled. If so, the distance travelled in order to

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pass through two districts into a third is less than half in the case of Madras than it is in the case of Ganjām or South Kanara. It need hardly be added that postings are made as vacancies arise and as the best interests of the public service dictate, and that advantage is taken of the return of officers from leave to fill the place of officers going on leave wherever that is practicable.

Formation of irrigation boards.

919 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : With reference to Government reply to question No. 139 at the meeting of the Council on 12th September 1922 regarding the irrigation boards in deltaic areas, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased—

(a) to expedite the formation of such irrigation boards before the end of this official year ; and

(b) to state whether it is the intention of the Government to have the depressed classes representatives of this Council nominated to these boards ?

A.—(a) Proposals for the constitution of the boards are under consideration and orders will issue shortly.

(b) Efforts will be made in consultation with the local officials to secure adequate representation of all the interests involved.

Revision of irrigation projects.

920 Q.—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the result of the work done till now by the special officer regarding the revision of irrigation projects in this Presidency ;

(b) which of the projects are likely to be taken up for execution next year ; and

(c) whether it is the intention of Government to try an experiment of floating a self-supporting loan in the public market for this purpose and gauging its popularity among the interested ryots in the districts or regions likely to be benefited by the introduction of such irrigation projects ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 71 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 12th September 1922. The report of the special officer on the revision of projects will be published shortly.

(b) The only projects likely to be taken up for execution next year are the excavation of the Girisola channel in the Ganjam district and the construction of the Tippiyapalem Reservoir in the Kurnool district.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“Is the hon. the Law Member aware that there are in the Kurnool and Bellary districts other projects which can be taken up for execution ; for example, the Basafanna channel, at a cost of 2.50 lakhs of rupees ?”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I cannot give a definite answer just now. The hon. Member had a talk with me on this matter.”